

IBM FlashSystem 5000

IBM FlashSystem 5015 and 5035 offer the performance, functionality and affordability demanded by entry enterprise workloads.

Highlights

- Offers easy-to-own, easy-to-use, easy-to-grow flexibility
 - Provides affordable, enterprise-grade functionality and performance
 - Leverages AI, analytics and blockchain technologies from IBM
 - Built with the rich enterprise data services of IBM Spectrum Virtualize
 - Brings hybrid cloud storage capabilities to increase business agility
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Leading-edge technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI), real-time analytics, and blockchain demand new levels of IT infrastructure performance and functionality for many reasons, but top of the list is because by their very nature they produce and consume enormous amounts of data.¹

Businesses of all sizes, including small businesses, remote and branch offices require a modern IT infrastructure with wide-ranging capabilities, from intelligent system optimization and powerful data reduction, through comprehensive security and encryption features, to cloud architectures and ultra-low latency flash storage. These demands can be especially challenging in environments with smaller and mid-sized application workloads, because organizations with smaller workloads quite often operate with smaller IT budgets.

Because capital funds are at a premium, businesses need to preserve and extend their current investments in IT infrastructure, while upgrading outdated features. So, pay-as-you-go strategies become especially attractive. Data security can't be compromised. Agility may be even more important than ever before, so infrastructure flexibility and scalability are crucial.

IBM FlashSystem 5000 storage systems are designed specifically to address entry enterprise workloads. These storage solutions are focused on affordability with a wide range of enterprise-grade features that can easily evolve as your business grows. And you can even choose to extend award-winning software-defined storage functionality across

all your existing systems to optimize current IT investments while building a leading-edge, cloud-capable business platform.



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Affordable, enterprise-grade storage solutions

IBM FlashSystem 5000 storage systems are designed to provide market leader entry level enterprise solutions within the overall FlashSystem family. IBM FlashSystem 5000 technology has recently been refreshed, with a focus on significant innovation. FlashSystem 5000 offerings include IBM FlashSystem 5015, designed for entry-level storage requirements, IBM FlashSystem 5035 with increased functionality and performance for entry workloads.

The new IBM FlashSystem 5000 models offer even greater affordability than before, with a wide range of performance and feature options:

- **IBM FlashSystem 5015** is an entry-level solution focused on affordability and ease of deployment and operation, with powerful scale-up features. It includes many IBM Spectrum Virtualize features and offers multiple flash and disk drive storage media and expansion options.
- **IBM FlashSystem 5035** provides greater functionality, including powerful encryption capabilities and data reduction pools with compression, deduplication, thin provisioning, and the ability to cluster for scale-up and scale-out.

More than ever before, FlashSystem 5000 models are easy to buy, easy to use and easy to grow:

- IBM FlashSystem 5015 and FlashSystem 5035 are **easy to buy** because they are simple. Just one thing to order and you get a storage solution ready to install and run. Also, with the IBM Storage Utility Offering cloud-like pricing, you pay as you grow. Get the ultimate in flexibility with this new way to procure data capacity with instant-on access. This offering allows you to predict monthly data capacity costs and pay only for the capacity you need, whether your data grows or shrinks. Drive capital costs over to the operational side of your budget ledger and save on the way. No need to over-purchase or lease large amounts of capacity for “just in case” needs. Simply use the data that your business needs and the IBM Storage Utility Offering will take care of the rest.
- They’re **easy to deploy**, with enterprise-grade capabilities such as AI-powered IBM Easy Tier functionality that ensures your data is on the right type of storage—automatically. All IBM storage solutions are supported by AI-enhanced IBM Storage Insights that monitors your storage environment, so you don’t have to. It lets you know when something needs your attention and can even recommend what to do. And when support from IBM is needed, Storage Insights helps streamline your experience.
- They’re **easy to grow** because you can quickly and easily add capacity without disruption. A single FlashSystem 5015 array can scale up to the size of a FlashSystem 5035 array with 504 drives per system, and up to 1,008 drives in two-way clustered systems. They work with your applications today, and the ones you will develop tomorrow, to address workloads using new technologies such as containers and cloud architectures.

Enhanced storage capabilities

All FlashSystem solutions leverage the proven capabilities of IBM Spectrum Virtualize software-defined storage (SDS) for storage management. IBM is the number-one SDS vendor in the industry.² IBM Spectrum Virtualize enables applications to run without disruption, even when changes are made to the storage infrastructure.

IBM Spectrum Virtualize has been helping enterprises improve infrastructure flexibility and data economics for more than 15 years. When virtualized, data in a storage system becomes part of the FlashSystem solution, and it can be managed in the same way as internal drives. Data in external systems inherit all the FlashSystem functional richness and ease-of-use features, including advanced replication, high-performance thin provisioning, encryption, compression, deduplication, and Easy Tier functionality. Depending on the FlashSystem model and the options you choose, IBM Spectrum Virtualize can deliver a wide spectrum of sophisticated storage functionality, including:

- IBM HyperSwap for nondisruptive application and data mobility between data centers

- Support for host-side virtualization solutions, including VMware virtual machines, Microsoft Hyper-V and IBM PowerVM, among others
- Support for more than 500 external storage systems from a wide variety of vendors
- Powerful data reduction pool technology that includes deduplication, compression, and automated thin provisioning
- Easy Tier automated tiering functionality
- IBM FlashCopy and IBM Remote Mirror for local and remote replication
- Support for using cloud resources to complement on-premises storage
- Three-site data replication capabilities

Data availability is crucially important to the business because downtime causes immediate business impacts, including loss of customer loyalty and significant financial costs. IBM Spectrum Virtualize in FlashSystem 5015 and FlashSystem 5035 can deliver “six nines” (99.9999%) data availability. These systems are designed for high availability, with no single point of failure, enterprise-proven control software, and nondisruptive maintenance. In addition, cloud-based Storage Insights functionality available with FlashSystem 5035 helps detect configuration errors to improve availability.

IBM FlashSystem 5000 can operate in DRAID 1, 5, or 6 modes. A key advantage is its ability to operate at full DRAID protection and efficiency with only three drives. This means that cost-sensitive users can start with a smaller CapEx and add capacity as needed. IBM DRAID 1 data can be read from all three drives, which provides a performance boost over traditional RAID 1 approaches, as well as allowing full recovery with loss of one drive.

To further enhance data protection and system recoverability, IBM has also included three-site replication on the FlashSystem 5035 array using a combination of FlashCopy and remote copy. This IBM Spectrum Virtualize-powered three-site replication capability runs data copies at both metro and global distances to offer a variety of recovery point and time options.

Increased efficiency

Available with the IBM FlashSystem 5035 model, data reduction pools help transform the economics of data storage. When applied to new or existing storage, they can significantly increase usable capacity while maintaining consistent application performance. This can help eliminate or drastically reduce costs for storage acquisition, rack space, power, and cooling, and can extend the useful life of existing storage assets. Capabilities include:

- Block deduplication that works across all the storage in a data reduction pool to minimize the number of identical blocks
- New compression technology that provides guaranteed consistent 2:1 or better reduction performance across a wide range of application workload patterns
- SCSI UNMAP support that deallocates physical storage when operating systems delete logical storage constructs such as files in a file system

Improved data mobility

AI-enhanced Easy Tier provides automatic migration of frequently accessed data to high-performance flash storage or multiple tiers of disk drives, enhancing storage efficiencies. Operating at very fine granularity, the optional Easy Tier function automatically moves data to the optimal storage type based on input/output patterns and drive characteristics, requiring no administrative interaction.

Extended data protection

To help protect sensitive data from unauthorized users, IBM FlashSystem 5035 gives IT teams the full power of storage encryption. In addition to placing encryption inside hardware arrays, IBM Spectrum Virtualize includes encryption capabilities in its management layer.

Data resilience

As systems became linked with external networks, organizations adopted a “defense-in-depth” security mode so that if the perimeter was breached, there were additional layers of security to protect critical information.

IBM FlashSystem 5000 provides advanced capabilities that can help maximize data protection, security and high availability to significantly reduce the risk of disruption and financial losses due to user errors, malicious destruction or ransomware attacks.

In addition, physical isolation layers can be created by storing sensitive copies in immutable storage, cloud environments or off-line write-once read many (WORM) tape devices to provide true “air-gap” protection.

IBM FlashSystem provides modern data protection to efficiently prevent, detect and respond to cyberattacks.

Innovative virtualization and container technologies

IBM Spectrum Virtualize in FlashSystem 5000 systems complements server virtualization with technologies such as PowerVM, Microsoft Hyper-V, VMware vSphere, and the container technologies Kubernetes and Docker.

Similar to virtualized servers, provisioning FlashSystem 5000 capacity is achieved with software and thin provisioning and is designed to be an almost entirely automated function. Without these technologies, provisioning servers could be slowed by the need to provision storage.

Containers enable applications to be packaged with everything needed to run identically in any environment. They offer the versatility of virtual machines, but at a much smaller footprint and cost. As a result, containerization is a key enabling technology for flexibly delivering workloads to private and public cloud and DevOps. Using the IBM storage container plug-in framework, FlashSystem 5000 systems can enable any supported storage to be used as persistent storage in Docker and Kubernetes container environments, improving flexibility, simplifying deployment, and lowering costs while offering enterprises the confidence of deploying stateful containers using highly available storage with enterprise capabilities.

Greater storage visibility, insight and control

Because data is the resource that drives your business, storage systems take on even greater importance. IBM Storage Insights and IBM Storage Insights Pro provide critical capabilities that enhance your experience with IBM storage, including:

- A single dashboard so you can see the status of all the block storage under management at a glance
- Trend information about capacity and performance so you can make better and more informed decisions
- Storage health information that helps you bring your configuration in line with best practices
- When support is needed, the ability to easily open a ticket, upload log information and view open tickets
- Detailed configuration data available to IBM specialists to help close tickets quickly

Delivered as a service from IBM Cloud at no charge, Storage Insights is quick and easy to set up and requires no ongoing software maintenance. Storage Insights Pro is an upgrade that provides more detailed information and additional capabilities.

Powerful added features

In addition to the many features and capabilities noted above, IBM FlashSystem 5000 systems include:

- Innovative management capabilities to ease storage management
- High-availability configurations with HyperSwap for FlashSystem 5035
- IBM Distributed RAID 1, designed for improved performance with small configurations
- FlashCopy function and remote mirroring to create copies of data for back up and disaster recovery
- Dual clustering for FlashSystem 5035 to enable growth from smaller configurations
- Options to nondisruptively upgrade in the field from FlashSystem 5015 to FlashSystem 5035, providing investment protection with the ability to grow capacity and performance in the same footprint
- High-density expansion enclosures, which can hold up to 92 drives and 2.8 PB in a 5U form factor
- The option to add IBM Spectrum Virtualize for Public Cloud to enable data migration between on-premises and public cloud storage, as well as the use of the public cloud for disaster recovery
- Support for OpenStack Cinder, which helps automate storage provisioning and volume management for organizations by combining the efficiency of FlashSystem 5000 with the OpenStack Compute cloud platform

¹ “Deep Learning (deep neural network),” *TechTarget.com*, Accessed March 2019.
<https://searchenterpriseai.techtarget.com/definition/deep-learning-deep-neural-network>

² “IBM Ranked # 1 in Worldwide Software-Defined Storage Software Market,” *IBM Corporation*, April 2017.

Why IBM?

The FlashSystem family of data systems from IBM is known for providing efficient, highly functional, high-performance storage for any type of workload. FlashSystem solutions, customized for entry enterprise, midrange enterprise, and high-end enterprise, are specifically designed to deliver performance in streamlined packages that are easy to deploy, easy to manage, and easy to grow.

For more information

For more information about the FlashSystem family of data systems, please contact your IBM representative or IBM Business Partner, or visit:

<https://www.ibm.com/it-infrastructure/storage/flash>

Additionally, IBM Global Financing provides numerous payment options to help you acquire the technology you need to grow your business. We provide full lifecycle management of IT products and services, from acquisition to disposition. For more information, visit: ibm.com/financing

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